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## CURRENT SUPPORT MEMORANDUM

MODEST RAILROAD CONSTRUCTION  
PLAN FOR 1958 OUTLINED BY PEIPING

OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND REPORTS  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~MODEST RAILROAD CONSTRUCTION PLAN FOR 1958 OUTLINED BY PEIPING

On 1 February Peiping announced its railroad construction goals for 1958. Only 1,290 km of new track are scheduled to be laid this year--considerably below the 1,747 km achieved in 1956. 1/ The major points covered in the 1958 plan and in recent announcements are as follows:

1. Investment in capital construction for railroads in 1958 is planned to be 1.52 billion yuan, 19.4 percent above the level attained in 1957, but less than the 1.88 billion yuan allocated in 1956. 2/

2. The remaining 320 km on the Paotow-Lanchow line will be completed and the entire 1,007 km line will become partially operable.

3. The Trans-Sinkiang line will be extended 313 km from a point near the Sinkiang-Kansu border to Hami. In January 1958 Peiping had announced that only 100 km would be laid on this line in 1958. 3/

4. The Nanping-Kuantou line will be extended 96 km from Oyang to Foochow, capital of Fukien Province. An additional 40 km will have to be laid beyond Foochow to Kuantou before the entire 211 km line will be completed. Another east coast railroad, the line running 188 km from Hsiaoshan to Chuanshan is operational 147 km to Ningpo but difficult construction across a marshy plain faces the builders on the remainder of the line. 4/

5. Construction on the second line to connect North China with Manchuria, the Huaijou-Shangpancheng section of the Peiping-Chengteh line, will be continued. An estimated 150 km of the 170 km route distance remain to be laid.

6. Work will be expedited on the Hochih-Kueiyang section of the Kwangsi-Kweichow line and Kanshuichang-Kueiyang section of the Szechwan-Kweichow line in the Southwest, which are respectively 140 km and 300 km short of completion at this time. 5/ The Neichiang-Kunming line with its railhead currently 50 km south of Neichiang will be extended only 75 km to Ipin by the end of 1958. 6/

7. Electrification of the mountainous 110 km Paochi-Fenghsien section of the Paochi-Chengtzu railroad will be started.

8. Two major railroad bridges, across the Yangtze River near Chungking and the Yellow River near Chengchow, will be started in 1958 and a major double-decker rail and highway bridge across the Pearl River at Canton will be started after 1958. 7/

In essence the railroad construction plan for 1958, although its goals are above the ones for the retrenchment year of 1957, are modest when compared with the results achieved in 1956. In 1957 a

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greater share of railroad investment was diverted from new line construction to improvements and to increasing the number of locomotives and rolling stock and this revised pattern will be continued in 1958. Earlier construction plans for 1958 involving emphasis on construction of the Chantien-Tungkuan and Changchiakou-Tsining lines apparently have been reduced in scope as a result of the priority given to other than new line construction in 1958.

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